352 The big living rooms and kitchens in the country homes are often pleasant looking and cozy with their handcarved heirloom furniture, woven rugs and tapestries. Rocking chairs are inevitable in the country homes as well as in the more crowded establishments in cities, and it is practically impossible to come across a Finnish home, no matter how modest, which does not have its window sills filled with flowering plants. The Finns are extremely fond of flowers, no doubt because of their long and dreary winters.

511 There do not exist any marked deviances in living standards in the different parts of the country. The poorest regions are those in the northeast, next to the Russian border, where the soil is barren and the families often too large for the parents to care for properly.